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# THE DISMISSAL *of* BOB BURKE



HEIDELBERG COMES TO COLUMBIA

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## *The Dismissal of Bob Burke*

**E**ARLY in June of 1936, Robert Burke, president-elect of the junior class, was dismissed from Columbia College. Burke, who was a prominent leader of the American Student Union at Columbia and an amateur boxing champion, was expelled after a demonstration protesting Columbia's acceptance of an invitation to the Heidelberg anniversary ceremonies. University officials have stated that his dismissal was caused by his "unseemly conduct" and "refusal to apologize." An examination of the facts of the case plainly reveals that these allegations are not the real basis for the University's action. We contend that the facts show conclusively that the University dismissed Burke because—and only because—he was an outstanding leader of the Student Union and a courageous exponent of those principles for which the Union stands.

Our case rests upon the following testimony:

FEBRUARY 26-28, *England*: In rapid succession Oxford, Birmingham and Cambridge Universities announce their refusal to participate in the Heidelberg anniversary exercises. They take this stand in condemnation of Nazi attacks upon academic freedom, the dismissal of 44 teachers at Heidelberg since 1933 and the conviction that the ceremonies would be used to glorify the Nazi regime. Germany thereupon withdraws its invitation to all English universities.



BOB BURKE

FEBRUARY 28, *New York*: Columbia University announces acceptance of the Heidelberg invitation. "It is the custom of Columbia University to be represented, whenever conveniently possible, at all celebrations of educational institutions here and abroad," states Philip M. Hayden, assistant secretary of the University. At the time of the announcement, President Nicholas Murray Butler is travelling and cannot be reached.

MARCH 2: *The Columbia Spectator* sends a cable to Dr. Butler informing him of Mr. Hayden's announcement and urging him to rescind the action. No reply was ever received.

MARCH 2—MARCH 15. American Student Union chapter votes to oppose Columbia's participation and to organize campus-wide protest against it. The Columbia Student Board takes similar action. A mass meeting is held to protest the University's decision. A petition against participation is launched, prominent faculty members, including Franz Boaz, George S. Counts, Harold Urey—Nobel prize winner—and many others signing this statement. The Columbia chapter of the Teachers Union passes a resolution citing the "necessity of reconsidering" the University's acceptance.

MARCH 18: Four fraternities submit their protests against Columbia's acceptance.

MARCH 26: A committee including two editors of Columbia publications, representatives of the Columbia and Teachers College Student Councils, a member of *The Columbia Law Review* and representatives of the graduate school is formed at the instance of the Student Union to carry the protests to Dr. Butler.

MARCH 29: 1,000 students and faculty members have signed the petition urging rescinding of the acceptance. Dr. Butler returns to the campus.

MARCH 30: Committee interviews Dr. Butler. He promises "full consideration to the views of the students in a study of the entire matter." *Dr. Butler states that he is uncertain whether the Heidelberg ceremonies will have political significance, as the stu-*

dents claim, and that, if investigation justifies their claim, he will veto the acceptance and seek similar action by other American Universities. He also assures committee members that they will receive word from him as soon as a decision is reached. (See affidavit No. 5.)

APRIL 28: A despatch to *The New York Times* reports:

### NAZIS WILL GUIDE HEIDELBERG FETE

"The program of the ceremonies honoring the 550th anniversary of Heidelberg, just published, indicates that spokesmen for the political regime now in power will have the major role. Despite assertion made here that the event would have purely local academic significance, Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels and other Nazi functionaries will be among most prominent hosts to scholars and scientists who have been invited to represent the universities of the world. The principal anniversary ceremony will take place on June 29. The program states that addresses will be delivered by representatives of the Reich government and of the National Socialist Party of the city of Heidelberg, and Heidelberg students. Three out of four speeches will be made by representatives of the government and national socialism. The evening before the ceremony the Reich government will be host at a reception at which Propaganda Minister Goebbels and Bernhard Rust, Minister of Culture, will speak.

*Germany:* Heidelberg officials announce that Arthur F. J. Remy will be Columbia's delegate to the Heidelberg ceremonies.

*New York:* Philip M. Hayden, assistant secretary of Columbia, asserts that "at the time of the acceptance of the invitation it was indicated to Heidelberg University that Professor Remy would be the delegate. There has been no new action since the last announcement."

APRIL 29: Although sixteen North American universities were listed in German report as having accepted invitations, five of them—Vassar, Davidson, Western Reserve, Michigan and Alberta

(Canada) deny that they will participate, according to *The New York Times*.

APRIL 30: Newspaper clippings of April 28 (quoted above) revealing political character of ceremonies are sent to Dr. Butler with a request for action in the light of his earlier pledge. (See March 30.)

MAY 6: Having received no reply to this request, committee asks interview with Dr. Butler to discuss the case on the basis of evidence of political nature of ceremonies.

MAY 11: Assistant Secretary Hayden informs the committee that "Dr. Butler has nothing to see the committee about."

### THE 'BOOK-BURNING' CEREMONY

MAY 12: American Student Union chapter holds open meeting to discuss University's stand. With less than two weeks of the semester remaining and the University apparently determined to evade the issue until school disbands and further pressure is impossible, the meeting votes to hold a protest demonstration that night.

300 students are quickly rallied and they assemble on South Field in the evening. They conduct a mock "book-burning" to satirize Columbia's acceptance. After this is concluded, the committee in charge decides to continue the demonstration in front of Dr. Butler's home in a final attempt to shake his indifference to university opinion. When the students reach there, Paul Thomson, a member of Student Board, and Robert Burke deliver speeches. Burke criticizes Dr. Butler for accepting the invitation in the name of the university and climaxes his speech with the statement: "Nicky, and I hope you hear this too, you can send a representative to Heidelberg but let it be known that he is not the choice of the student body". (See affidavit No. 2.) Observers testify that not only did Burke refrain from any personal or abusive language but that he also attempted to quiet a few individuals who shouted personal comments. (See affidavits Nos. 1-4.)

In the course of the evening several picket signs are dropped in

the corridor leading to the front door of the house. The meeting lasts for about half an hour and then disbands in orderly fashion. According to observers, "the meeting was attended with little disorder." (See affidavits Nos. 1-4.)

After the meeting Dr. Butler's doorbell is rung by reporters seeking a statement. Later this incident is made one of the charges against the student demonstrators. (See affidavit No. 3.)

MAY 13: Dean Herbert E. Hawkes calls Paul Thomson to his office. The exact nature of that interview has not been disclosed.

MAY 21: Dean Hawkes summons Burke. According to Burke:\* "A few days later I was summoned to the Dean's office. He confronted me with the accusation of having been a leader of a demonstration which was in exceedingly poor taste, rowdy and which had violated the sanctity of Dr. Butler's home. He told me that someone had shouted profane remarks about Dr. Butler and that someone had left picket signs in the foyer of Dr. Butler's house. I told the Dean that I hadn't heard the profanity and that I was sorry that someone had left picket signs. The Dean was quite angry, however, and made it clear that he thought the entire affair deplorable and reprehensible. I maintained that as far as picketing Dr. Butler's house went and speaking in front of it, we were within our rights and well within the bounds of decency. This became our major point of difference. The Dean said that there were two alternative decisions which he might reach: either he would forget the whole matter or I would be asked to resign. He asked me if I would accept the invitation to resign if it were proffered. I replied that since the American Student Union had called the meeting and had asked me to speak, and since the result of this case would affect the A. S. U., I could not decide that question without consultation with the Union. I told the Dean that if I were expelled it would appear to the student body that this action was an attempt to frighten the A. S. U. out of any action of significance and to frighten politically conscious students so that they would not take part in A. S. U. affairs. Surely, I said, I could prove that my behavior in front of

\*All of Burke's testimony quoted here has been made in affidavit form. The affidavit will be submitted to any authoritative body.

Dr. Butler's home was reserved and considered. Further, on the same evening that the A. S. U. demonstration took place, several hundred students not associated with the Union and not connected in any way with the Heidelberg protest, stormed the fence around Barnard College, tore it down and dragged it into the streets. I pointed out that this was apparently not considered below Columbia's standard and I suggested that perhaps the political portent of the Student Union meeting explained the different attitude of the administration toward the two occurrences. *The Dean denied this, asserting that the tearing down of the Barnard fence was a "usual pre-examination outburst" while the Union demonstration was an invasion of the sanctity of Dr. Butler's home and could not be tolerated.* The Dean again stated that, *according to the newspapers*, I had led the demonstration and that since he knew no one else who had been there except Paul Thomson, we two would have to be held responsible. I left the Dean's office after reiterating my apology for the alleged profanity and for the leaving of picket signs in the foyer of the president's house. I again stated that the A. S. U. would accept responsibility for the meeting but would oppose the singling out of one man as a victim."

MAY 24: The American Student Union's Columbia chapter sends a letter to Dean Hawkes saying "... At the book-burning student enthusiasm quickly spread and with the approval of the committee in charge of arrangements many students started for Dr. Butler's home to demonstrate to the President that they disapproved of his seeming indifference to repeated student request for a statement ... The A. S. U. considers any obscene language which may have been used by members of the crowd to be reprehensible. The cluttering of Dr. Butler's foyer with placards is regrettable. The A. S. U. apologizes for any personal affront to the President. Because of the group character of this demonstration, we do not feel that any individual can be held responsible for the conduct or issue of any part of it."

MAY 28: The Dean again summons Burke. According to Burke: "Several days after this letter I was again called to the Dean's office and charged with distorting his interview with me. I told him that

I had been careful to explain to any men I spoke to that the case was not settled and that I had not distorted his remarks at all. We again argued the right of students to picket Dr Butler's house and I again apologized for the two questionable matters, making it clear that I had not used profanity nor left the picket signs."

JUNE 2: Burke of his own accord confers with a member of the faculty who, according to Burke, advised "that I go in and apologize for the actions which I felt to be reprehensible . . . He said the Dean would probably be placated by an apology. I explained my position and said that I had apologized twice before but would apologize again for the profanity and the placards. I tried to see the Dean that day but he was not in, and as I left the next day, I had no chance to see him."

#### THE LETTER OF DISMISSAL

JUNE 16: Burke receives a letter of dismissal from Dean Hawkes, which reads:

"After very careful consideration and consultation concerning your situation, I have finally come to the conclusion that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if you did not register in Columbia College next Fall. I should be glad to help you in any way that I can to find a field of interest where you can fit in more definitely but the kind of behavior that has attended your residence in Columbia College seems to me to justify the decision which I have made. I am notifying the Registrar of this action."

JUNE 25: Burke sends notification of his dismissal to the national office of the American Student Union and asks action in his behalf.

JUNE 27: Burke's father writes to Dean Hawkes urging him to reconsider his decision, adding:

" . . . Perhaps you do not realize the sacrifices that my wife and I have made to get a Columbia diploma for Bob. Have you

considered the hard work the boy has done to help support himself while earnestly trying to acquire a really comprehensive education? . . . The extension of equality of opportunity to all men has been the chief interest of my life and it has been my ambition for many years to have a son so learned in economics and earnest in purpose that he could devote his life to the cause of social and economic justice with absolute certainty of substantial accomplishment. We chose Columbia because we believed these ambitions were compatible with its tradition of liberal tendencies. Please let me know what there was in Robert's conduct, behavior or manner that would make him undesirable as a student at Columbia . . . I ask that you supply me with a full and exact account of the incidents in Bob's life there that you think make him unfit to associate with his fellow students at Columbia. . . . "

JUNE 28: American Student Union makes public report of Burke's dismissal and announces its intention to campaign for his reinstatement. On the same day, according to *The New York Sun*, " . . . Dean Herbert E. Hawkes revealed that two other leaders in the demonstration had apologized and that no disciplinary action would be taken against them. It was said today that Burke had taken a defiant attitude and had refused to apologize."

JUNE 29: Dean Hawkes refuses to furnish any detailed reply to Burke's father, stating:

" . . . Since the boy has taken the matter up with the American Student Union for demonstration and protest, and by a release to the press, I hardly know how to reply to your letter. I suppose that any thing that might be said would be reported to the headquarters of the American Student Union with the consequent misrepresentation and garbling which emanates from this source. Suffice it to say that your son was one of the leaders in one of the most disgusting and unmannerly demonstrations that has been seen at Columbia University for many years. After several conversations with him he expressed no regret or apology for his part in the affair. I am therefore obliged to assume that

his action on this occasion represents the kind of conduct we may expect from him. In that case I do not regard him as a person whose conduct is likely to reflect credit upon himself or upon Columbia College."

JULY 10: Burke writes to Dean Hawkes with a renewed appeal for reconsideration, repeating his apology for the instances of disorder to which the Dean had objected:

"I have, sir, worked hard and earnestly for the past several years to gain an education. I entered Columbia because of its reputation for liberal and progressive action. During the two years I have been in attendance there I have come to respect many of my professors and the learning inherent in the institution. Certain other aspects I have come to abhor. This is, I believe, a natural reaction. Those aspects I disliked I protested against in the hope that some change might be accomplished. This, to me, was loyalty to Columbia. . . . I read with regret that you saw fit to call my behavior disgraceful and disorderly. I believe that my record at Columbia disproves that charge. Anyone at the Heidelberg demonstration will tell you that my personal behavior at that meeting was both orderly and calm . . . I wish to repeat my apology for the alleged use of profanity at that Heidelberg meeting and also for the fact that some picket signs were left in front of Dr. Butler's home. I repeat that I had no part in these unfortunate incidents. I hope that some agreement may be reached which will put an end to the publicity which is inimical to the best interests of Columbia and myself. I will deeply appreciate any effort of yours to reach another decision in my case."

JULY 20: Dean Hawkes again declines to elaborate upon the dismissal.

JULY 30: Arthur Garfield Hays, noted attorney, agrees to carry Burke's case to court in the fight for his reinstatement if such action proves necessary.

## WHO decided upon Burke's dismissal?

Dean Hawkes' letter of dismissal maintains that his decision was reached after "consideration and consultation". With whom did he consult? No student witnesses were called. It is known that several faculty members recommended to the Dean that Burke should not be expelled.

Did Dean Hawkes consult with the Board of Trustees and Dr. Butler? If so, was their recommendation decisive?

Why was Burke dismissed?

On June 30 Dean Hawkes is quoted in *The Sun* as declaring that while Burke had been dismissed, no disciplinary action had been taken against other leaders in the demonstration. He explained this by the statement that other leaders had apologized and that Burke had refused to apologize.

However, the facts show that Burke apologized on three separate occasions: once, in his first interview with the Dean after the demonstration; again, the next time the Dean saw him and a third time by mail from his home. The first two apologies were made *before Dean Hawkes' June 30th statement to The Sun and before the dismissal.*

We can only conclude that, if the Dean's statement means anything, there must have been a real difference between Burke's apology and those of the "other leaders."

Burke apologized for offenses committed by the students in the course of the meeting. He made it clear that he had no right to apologize for the actual holding of the meeting. He continued to uphold the right of student organizations to hold protest meetings on issues of such gravity. If the other apologies were different from his, *they must have included apologies for holding the meeting itself.*

**B**URKE'S dismissal then is clearly an attack on the right of student organization and action. Burke's insistence upon this right was the cause of his expulsion. He defended this right with the full knowledge that the University might take drastic action against him. For this firm stand he merits the support of all those who believe that these rights are essential to academic freedom.

That the Heidelberg issue was of sufficient gravity to warrant the holding of protest meetings seems indisputable. Immediately on the announcement of Columbia's participation student and faculty opinion from different organizations in all parts of the campus was outspoken in opposition to the acceptance. This opposition grew until by March 30th, when the committee first saw Dr. Butler, it represented a dominant section of university opinion. *Dr. Butler gave clear indication that if the claims were justified, he would rescind the invitation.*

*On April 28th these claims were justified by press quotations from the Nazi officials themselves. On the same day the name of Columbia's representative to Heidelberg was made public. When another interview was requested, Dr. Butler had "nothing to see the committee about."*

In view of these circumstances, there was only one way in which Dr. Butler could effectively be made aware of campus sentiment. Every other method of democratic expression had been shut off by Dr. Butler himself. *The demonstration of May 12th was the inevitable result of Dr. Butler's indifference to student and faculty opinion.*

Whatever unfortunate incidents may have marred the demonstration—and the degree of misconduct is still to be established—the demonstration itself was emphatically justified. Columbia arbitrarily took part in a ceremony which was later described by *The Times* correspondent as follows:

*"The second day of Heidelberg-University's celebration of the 550th anniversary has gone by without one catching sight of an academic robe. Both ceremonies of the day's program had a mili-*

*tary and political character . . . All directions continued to be issued by a special office of the Propaganda Ministry set up here."*

*It was incongruous for Columbia to remain silent on the Heidelberg issue and yet so readily to expel a student who protested this silence in the name of the student body.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**B**URKE'S expulsion is an attempt to stifle student opinion. It is a challenge to every advocate of democratic education. It is a shocking forerunner of that kind of arbitrary, ruthless academic dictatorship to which education has been subjected in Germany. Columbia sent a representative to Heidelberg; are Heidelberg methods coming to Columbia?

The meaning of Burke's reinstatement was plainly stated by Burke in a letter to his attorney:

*"The question of my reinstatement at Columbia is important to me for two reasons. First and least important is that I do not want the brand of 'disorderly and disgraceful' on my record and I desire very greatly to finish my education. (The Dean told me that if I saw fit to fight this case I would stand very little chance of ever entering another educational institution in the United States.) The second reason that forces me to fight this case is the question of academic freedom. If Columbia can get away with this expulsion, freedom of thought and expression on every campus in the country will be endangered. The unwritten threat of administrative discipline will force more and more students to silence. It is my belief that our country is at that point in its development at which we must fight against every manifestation of that suppression which is so horribly rampant in fascist nations. If we fail to carry the battle, then I am sure that our country will also find itself throttled and held by the pernicious forces which desire to defend their privilege even when humanity starves. My case is one small skirmish in*

the battle. But I intend to fight it and win. Your help will be invaluable."

We join Burke in asking your help. Demand Burke's reinstatement. If you are a student or a teacher:

1. Urge your student council (or general organization) and student newspaper to protest the dismissal and urge reinstatement.
2. Get your club, fraternity or teachers' group to send a resolution of protest to Dr. Butler and Dean Hawkes demanding Burke's reinstatement.
3. Circulate petitions throughout student body and faculty demanding Burke's reinstatement.
4. Secure statements of support from faculty members and prominent citizens, to be sent to Dr. Butler and Dean Hawkes.
5. Have your organization initiate or join local committees for Burke's defense.
6. Support mass meetings being planned throughout the country in Burke's behalf.

If you are not in school:

1. Send personal protests to Dr. Butler and Dean Hawkes. Circulate petitions among your friends and neighbors.
2. Secure protests from organizations to which you belong.
3. Support mass meetings throughout the country.

*Send petitions and copies of all resolutions, statements or actions to American Student Union office, 112 East 19th Street. Funds are urgently needed to carry on this campaign. Contributions should be forwarded to the Union office.*

Let Burke's fight be the rallying ground for all progressives. His reinstatement will be a smashing defeat for the enemies of democratic education.

## AFFIDAVITS

*(All except one of the following affidavits are from students now in attendance at Columbia. Four names have consequently been withheld lest their academic standing be jeopardized. We are prepared to submit the affidavits to an impartial committee set up with the approval of the Burke Defense Committee and the University.)*

### AFFIDAVIT NO. 1

I was a spectator at the demonstration of the American Student Union, held in front of the house of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler on the evening of May 12.

I saw the entire demonstration and heard the entire speech of Robert Burke.

I swear that I do not recall any remarks in that speech which pertained to any matter other than that of Columbia's representation at the Heidelberg ceremonies and that I do not recall any reference to Dr. Butler in that speech except in connection with his stand in the Heidelberg matter.

That my opinion, formed at the time, was that Burke was moderate in his speech, and certainly within the bounds of propriety.

That, contrary to some newspaper reports, no demonstrators attempted to enter Dr. Butler's house.

That the only persons I saw attempting to enter Dr. Butler's house were a group of reporters, of which I was one.

Notarized:

Signed.

### AFFIDAVIT NO. 2

I solemnly swear that I was present throughout the entire demonstration in front of Dr. Butler's home on the evening of May 12, and swear to the truth of the following statements:

1. Robert Burke never attacked Dr. Butler personally, but confined his remarks about him solely to expressing disagreement with his policies.
2. Burke referred to Dr. Butler in no more abusive terms than "Nicky". I cannot recall having heard him using any violent or obscene language at any time.
3. The gist of the speech is condensed in the following statement, quoted as directly as possible from memory: "And Nicky, I hope you hear this

too, you can send a representative to Heidelberg, but let it be known that he is not the choice of the Columbia student body".

4. Upon leaving Dr. Butler's residence in the company of two other spectators we remarked to one another, that the meeting was attended with little disorder.

Notarized:

Signed.

#### AFFIDAVIT NO. 3

I swear that I witnessed the demonstration held in front of Dr. Butler's home on the evening of May 12 and that

1. Burke did not, as charged, use any obscene, violent, or abusive language.
2. That whenever he made reference to Dr. Butler it was only in connection with Dr. Butler's stand on the Heidelberg question.
3. That any show of rudeness was confined to scattered remarks from the crowd.
4. That Burke used his influence to restrain the crowd from making such remarks.
5. That the doorbell ringing was done by reporters known to me.
6. That the demonstrators at no time entered Dr. Butler's house.

Notarized:

Signed.

#### AFFIDAVIT NO. 4

I was present at the meeting before Dr. Butler's home on the evening of May 12 during the entire speech of Robert Burke.

I can say without reservation that Burke was restrained in his statements and in no sense disorderly.

His remarks dealt only with the matter of Columbia's participation in the Heidelberg festivities.

As I remember it, the meeting was orderly on the whole, boisterousness being confined to a mere handful of those present.

ROGER CHASE.

#### AFFIDAVIT NO. 5

I was one of the nine students who interviewed President Butler on March 30, 1936. This committee presented to Dr. Butler a petition signed

by 1,000 students and by many faculty members asking that the Heidelberg invitation be rejected. The committee also presented Dr. Butler with clippings from *The Columbia Spectator* which reported student protest against the acceptance of Heidelberg's bid. Finally, the committee requested, that in view of the strong student opinion against Germany's regimentation of its universities, Columbia refuse to give sanction to this policy by sending its representative to Heidelberg. We reported that English Universities had declined to attend and urged Columbia to do likewise.

In the discussion that followed, Dr. Butler declared that he was unfamiliar with the nature of the Heidelberg invitation. He had not seen it and did not know whether it was received from the university of Heidelberg or from the German government. He had not, he stated, read of the action taken by the British Universities. He assured us, however, that he would look into these matters.

Moreover, Dr. Butler stated at length that he was most distressed over the persecutions conducted by the German government. He was especially concerned over the fate of scholarship under the Third Reich. He ridiculed the results of the German elections (reported in the press that very day) which showed 98.87% of the German vote for Hitler. He scored the Nazis for having closed the Deutsche Hochschule fur Politik (founded by Dr. Butler after the war), and for having reopened it as a school for Nazi propaganda. In short, President Butler showed that he held the Nazi regime in contempt. At the same time, he wanted to study the nature of the proposed celebration at Heidelberg more closely. He promised us a report when he had completed this study.

Dr. Butler felt the need for an international conference of universities to determine their policy toward German academics. He stated that he would urge the establishment of such a conference.

In regard to the invitation from Heidelberg, Dr. Butler stated that its acceptance was not to be regarded as final. If his study showed that the proposed celebration was to have a political and propaganda character, he would refer the invitation back to the proper committee. It was distinctly my impression at this point that Dr. Butler wished to determine what the character of the Heidelberg festival would be and that if he found that it would be political and propagandist in nature, he would urge Columbia to reject the invitation. In any event, Dr. Butler promised to inform us of his decisions "within a few weeks."

I swear that the above statements are true.

Notarized:

Signed.

AFFIDAVIT NO. 6

I hereby swear that I was chairman of the arrangements committee of the anti-Heidelberg demonstration held by the American Student Union the night of May 12, 1936 at Columbia University, and that Robert Burke acted only as a member of that committee abiding by its decisions in every detail of the demonstration both on South Field and before Dr. Butler's home. He assumed no individual initiative, but acted at all times as a committee member.

And I further swear that I was both within sight and sound of the above mentioned Robert Burke throughout the demonstration, and that at no time was his conduct boisterous, undignified, nor did he use any obscene language. I stood beside him during the speech, and I heard him give no more than a direct and dignified presentation of the point of view of the American Student Union in relation to the sending of a Columbia representative to the Heidelberg festival.

And I further swear that the conduct of the above mentioned Robert Burke was in full accord with order and decorum in the demonstration. And further that Burke acted to keep the demonstrators in regular lines, and to prevent the use of any improper language, with the result that I heard no such language employed by anyone present.

And finally I swear that Robert Burke left the demonstration at once upon its conclusion, and before any placards had been placed anywhere about the Butler premises. I can attest to this, for I left just after Burke, and at that time there were no placards visible.

PAUL K. THOMSON.

Notarized:

SEND THIS TO PRESIDENT NICHOLAS BUTLER AND  
DEAN HERBERT HAWKES

(name of club, organization or individual)

protests the dismissal of Robert Burke as an unwarranted attack upon student liberty and urges his immediate and unconditional reinstatement.

Signed.....

(Name of Representative)

School or College.....

If organization, number of members.....

Please send copies to American Student Union office, 112 East 19th Street, N. Y. City